



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

André Bauer
Lieutenant Governor

Office on Aging
Cornelia D. Gibbons
Director

Media Advisory:
June 23, 2005

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**\$10,000 Seed Grant from Lt. Governor's Office on Aging Will
Support Alzheimer's Respite Program in Downtown Charleston**

- **Who:** The Reid House of Christian Service, Executive Director, Dolores S. Greene. Ms. Greene can be contacted at (843) 723-7138.
- **What:** This local organization that serves senior citizens and their families in your community was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the South Carolina Lt. Governor's Office on Aging to begin a Group Respite Care program.
- **When:** On June 28, Lt. Governor André Bauer will personally present the grant award to the leadership of the Dillon County Council for the Aging. Photographs of the award presentation will be available for news organizations unable to attend.
- **Where:** The grant awards ceremony will take place at the Statehouse in Columbia. Lt. Governor Bauer's Office is on the first floor.

Background:

Reid House of Christian Services has been providing services to the Charleston community since 1950. Their services expanded to include adult day care in 1986. Program managers envision that the new respite care service supported by the South Carolina Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) seed grant will provide an affordable option for families who do not need a full day of care.

Group respite programs provide structured activities in a safe, caring environment for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's or related disorders. These programs fulfill a tremendous need for family members and other caregivers by giving them a break from the demands of providing care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Group respite programs also greatly benefit the individual being cared for, by providing them with social interaction and exercise overseen by trained professionals. Reid House's service will be offered Monday through Friday, for four hours (9:30 am – 1:30 pm).

The new program was supported by numerous community organizations in the Charleston area, including the Charleston County Human Services Commission, the Johnson VA Medical Center, Charleston Area Senior Services, Inc., Morris Brown AME Church, and the Charleston Area Mental Health Center.

The Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Center (ARCC) in the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging was created to provide statewide coordination, service system development, information and referral, and caregiver support services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, their families and caregivers. Legislation directs the center to:

- Initiate the development of systems which coordinate the delivery of programs and services
- Facilitate the coordination and integration of research, program development, planning and quality assurance
- Identify potential users of services and gaps in the service delivery system and expand methods and resources to enhance statewide services
- Serve as a resource for education, research and training and provide information and referral services
- Provide technical assistance for the development of support groups and other local initiatives to serve individuals, families and caregivers
- Recommend public policy concerning Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to state policymakers
- Submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging and to the General Assembly

A detailed demographic look at South Carolina and Dillon County's senior population based on the 2000 federal census can be found at www.scmatureadults.org . The report Mature Adults in South Carolina is a publication of the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging.